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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Gordon R. Bennett, Chairman

James J. Flaherty, Commissioner UCC Building—P.O. Box 1728—Helena, Montana Fredric D. Moulton, Commissioner

FL. 289

4th QUARTER, 1968

1968 WAS RECORD JOB YEAR: NON-FARM JOB AVERAGE OF 195,400

12 MONTHS OF RECORD TOTALS

—Despite the metal mining strike which carried over into three months of 1968, non-farm job totals for that year were at record levels for each of the 12 months. Employment continued to build up from the February low of 181,500 until a peak of 206,600 was reached in August. The average for the year was 195,400, the highest yearly average of non-farm employment ever achieved in Montana. In fact, monthly job totals for 1968 surpassed comparable months of all past years.

OVER-THE-MONTH JOB GAIN OF 900

—Four of the eight basic industry groups posted job gains during December, employment was down in three, and one remained the same. Jobs in trade industries were up by 1,000, reflecting increased business volume of the holiday season. State and local governments added 300 workers to December payrolls, but a decline of 100 federal jobs left a net gain of 200 in the government group. Manufacturing, and mining each added 100 workers during the month. Construction payrolls were 400 less in December, while service industries dropped 100 workers. Job totals in the transportation, utilities, and communications group, and in finance, insurance and real estate firms did not change.

64,360 JOB PLACEMENTS — Local offices of the Montana State Employ-

ment Service made 64,360 job placements in 1968. Of this number, 33,142 were to industrial employers, and 31,280 to a variety of agricultural operations. Of the industrial job placements, 9,301 were in trade industries, 6,721 in service industries, 3,989 in private households, 3,618 in manufacturing, 2,880 in construction, and 2,266 in transportation, utilities, and communications. A total of 54,931 new applications for employment were taken during 1968, down 750 from the prior year. Industrial employers throughout the state listed 40,750 job openings with local employment offices in 1968.

LABOR SURPLUS LESS THAN

LAST YEAR — The number of registered jobseekers at local employment offices increased by 1,092 during December to a total of 10,670. Fifty-one per cent of this number were unemployment insurance claimants. The total jobseeker number was down 436 from December, 1967. Some of the new jobseekers in the December labor market were housewives, other family workers, and students seeking temporary employment during the busy holiday season. Historically, the labor surplus peak is reached in January or February each year. The totals then start the downward trend early in March as spring job opportunities begin to open up for another season.

1968 UCC PAYMENTS OVER \$5.2 MILLION — The UCC wrote benefit

checks of \$5,263,340 for eligible, unemployed workers who filed unemployment insurance claims during 1968. This represents a substantial boost to the mainstream of the Montana economy as most of this money winds up in the cash registers of trade and service firms throughout the state. Unemployed workers in Silver Bow County received the most in UCC checks during 1968 with a total of \$821,400. Payments to unemployment insurance claimants in other major counties were as follows: Cascade, \$632,820; Yellowstone, 605,939; Flathead, \$467,233; Missoula, \$348,986, and Lewis and Clark, \$240,422.

ECONOMY SHIFTS FROM GOODS

TO SERVICES—National figures show that 55 per cent of the U.S. work force is now employed in industries which dispense services rather than in the production of goods. These industry groups include stores, banks, hospitals, schools, and government agencies. The percentage of these workers is higher in Montana. Of the 197,600 non-farm wage earners on Montana's December non-farm payrolls 156,000 workers were in industries which provided a variety of services, and 41,600 in industries engaged in the production of goods. Seventy-nine per cent of Montana's non-farm workers were employed in service industries against a national average of 55 per cent.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (Per 100 Employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Nov. 1967	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Nov. 1967	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Nov. 1967	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Nov. 1967	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1968	Nov. 1967
All Manufacturing	2.7	4.1	2.7	2.1	3.9	2.6	3.3	5.6	5.6	1.7	2.6	2.4	.8	1.4	2.1
Durable Goods	2.9	5.3	3.4	2.6	5.1	3.3	3.8	6.6	5.9	2.3	3.0	2.9	.7	1.3	1.5
Primary Metal	2.4	4.8	.8	1.7	4.6	.8	2.5	5.2	2.0	1.5	1.6	1.1	*	*	.2
Nondurable Goods	2.3	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.3	2.1	3.6	4.9	.6	1.9	1.6	1.1	1.5	3.1
All Mining	2.9	4.2	5.0	1.3	3.0	4.8	7.4	5.8	11.8	2.9	3.7	3.2	3.0	1.2	6.8
Metal Mining	2.1	3.0	.6	.2	1.0	*	2.3	1.4	5.1	.8	1.0	1.7	*	.1	.4

* Less than .05.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for Dec.

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—Labor market patterns now adjusting in line with the winter season. Weather is controlling factor in outdoor jobs with employment levels shifting back and forth according to climatic conditions. Smelter hiring accounted for bulk of December job placements. Expected job expansion in trade industries did not develop for holiday season.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—Snow and cold weather brought heavy layoffs in contract construction as the month ended. Highway work and outdoor commercial building came to a standstill. Some building craftsmen continued finish work on enclosed structures. Main street merchants enjoyed high volume of holiday business with good hiring trends for extra help. Workers in short supply included mechanics, office machine and television repairmen, medical-health personnel and food service workers. Farm labor demand mainly for livestock care and feeding.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—Job levels in most industry groups hold at fairly good seasonal levels. The uncertainty of weather keeps construction on shaky schedules with major projects being 120-unit motel and \$90,000 hospital addition. Logging and sawmill operations at good pace except for cutbacks at a West Yellowstone mill. Trade employment leveling off after holiday season. Fair demand for farm and ranch help.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—Labor market trends remain on fairly even keel but with very little hiring in any industry group. Out-of-state mining firms still active in recruiting Butte men. Normal job declines now showing in construction and other outdoor activities. A butcher's strike temporarily created some new unemployment.

CUT BANK—Worker registrations increased during the month with the Indian population accounting for half of the registered jobseekers. Upswing in trade and oil field hiring accounted for most of new job placements. Most outdoor work now in suspension until weather moderates.

DILLON—Demand for livestock feeders increased as snow and cold weather covered the area. Labor supply and demand in good balance. Work on several major building projects and a highway section on unsteady basis

MONTANA CIVILIAN WORK FORCE

(In Thousands)

	Dec. 68	Nov. 68	Dec. 67	Nov. 68 to Dec. 68	Dec. 67 to Dec. 68
Civilian Work Force	265.0	269.7	270.0	—4.7	—5.0
Total Employment	253.4	256.9	249.0	—3.5	4.4
Total Non-agricultural Employment	226.7	226.4	218.9	.3	7.8
Non-agricultural Wage & Sal.	197.6	196.7	191.0	.9	6.6
Total Agricultural Employment	26.7	30.5	30.1	—3.8	—3.4
Labor Management Disputes	*	.1	7.6	—	—
Total Unemployment	11.6	12.7	13.4	—1.1	—1.8
Percent Unemployment	4.4	4.7	5.0	—	—
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.1	3.3	3.5	—	—

*Less Than .50

keyed to weather. Accepted bid of local lumber firm for Beaverhead National Forest timber mill translate into more jobs for local men next four years.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—Construction crews on new high school and retirement home reduced to minimum and other outdoor work shut down for the winter season. Uncertainty of future plans for air base facilities holds back consumer buying. Job in trade industries show big decline from year ago. Moderate farm labor demand at present.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—The mark of a harsh winter shows in construction projects closed until spring and general declines in most other outdoor activities. Main street employment keeps at good levels after some post holiday declines. Farm labor demand at low ebb.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—Trade and service industries accounted for 83% of non-farm job placements during the month. Construction job totals moved up and down in response to changing weather conditions. Smelter hiring abated during the month, but trends remained generally optimistic for coming months. Farm labor demand was chiefly for livestock care and feeding operations.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—Job opportunities diminished in most outdoor industries as the winter season began in earnest. Most new unemployment came from construction, forest service and logging. Unemployment claims show increase from year ago figures. Sorting and shipping of the potato crop plus some livestock feeding created only light farm labor demand.

HAYRE, Chinook, Harlem—Most labor market activity in the area now in the grip of a severe winter. All outside construction suspended until spring. Trade and service firms cutting

down on help until warmer weather brings pick-up in business volume. No appreciable change in job totals expected for next two months. Farm labor demand at minimum.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—Passive trends covered most industry groups during the month. Labor demand was mainly for clerical workers, boosted by the 1969 Legislature now in session. Trade and service employment at firm levels. Cold weather shut down several major building projects. Improving weather will bring increased activity in logging and lumbering activities in area.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Whitefish—Surplus of all construction craftsmen in area due to sharp reduction in building and heavy construction. Some major work completed, while other projects in suspension until weather improves. Loss of these payrolls shows in downturn in trade and service volume. Logging affected by bad weather, but mill employment remains fairly stable.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—Farm job placements up 16% from year ago due to increased demand for livestock feeders. This trend will continue as long as cold weather holds. The 400 workers on remodification of missile systems in area keeps trade and service volume active. Work on building projects continues as weather allows.

LIBBY—The severity of winter caused heavy layoffs in construction, logging, and in trade and service firms. A heavy surplus of construction workers awaiting break in the weather. Job losses in logging and mill work will be recovered as weather moderates.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—All labor demand held to the bare minimum due to heavy snow and cold weather. All construction at standstill except for demolition of old hotel to

TEN YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1959	155.2	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	171.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.1	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.1	175.8	176.9	177.7	171.8	171.6	167.5	161.5	166.8
1961	156.9	151.8	156.1	160.2	165.1	173.3	176.0	178.1	176.8	172.1	169.0	162.2	167.1
1962	158.3	158.2	159.6	166.2	172.4	180.1	180.5	181.2	178.6	176.6	175.1	173.5	171.7
1963	163.9	163.0	165.0	170.2	175.1	181.0	182.3	183.8	181.5	179.7	176.6	173.6	174.6
1964	166.2	161.3	165.1	169.1	171.2	182.4	185.5	187.2	181.9	182.2	178.4	175.1	176.2
1965	167.9	167.4	168.9	171.1	179.8	188.7	189.6	192.1	189.9	188.1	185.3	183.6	181.3
1966	173.9	172.6	171.2	180.2	185.4	195.6	198.2	199.2	195.8	191.2	187.6	186.9	186.7
1967	179.9	178.5	180.1	181.7	188.1	199.1	201.1	197.8	196.3	193.7	192.2	191.0	190.2
1968	181.6	181.5	182.7	190.0	195.4	203.9	204.3	206.6	203.5	199.5	196.7	197.6*	195.4*

*Preliminary Estimate. Employment estimate for 1967 and 1968 revised on basis of more complete reports. Industrial detail from Jan. 1967 to date will be supplied in future supplement to this publication.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary for Dec.

prepare site for new variety store. Job trends in logging and lumbering, trade, and railroads at low ebb.

MILES CITY, Baker, Broadus, Ekalaka, Jordan, Terry—Employment in small construction and oil field activities at high levels until curbed by snow and cold weather. Above normal farm labor demand especially for livestock care. Strong labor market trends in evidence prior to winter slowdown should return to all industry groups as weather improves.

MISSOULA, Arlee, Drummond, Superior—The forces of winter show in reduced worker demand in both industry and agriculture. The holiday buying season was slow in starting and trade firms did not increase their staffs appreciably. Most construction projects in dormant stage. Logging industry only one showing some worker shortages.

POLSON — Local employment held at high levels paced by increased hiring in sawmills and logging. Fairly good work schedule on new high school at Ronan. A reopened plywood plant adds to local economy. Slow farm labor demand.

SHELBY—Job totals down in construction, oil fields, and other outdoor work as weathered worsened. Main street trade and service firms in adjustment period after increased hiring during holiday period. Practically no farm labor demand.

SIDNEY — Sub-zero temperatures and deep snow hampered all outdoor work reducing payrolls from peaks reached earlier. Federal training and labor mobility projects have reduced number of unemployed from year ago. Moderate farm labor demand for livestock feeding activities.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—Job totals in construction, logging, and other outdoor work dwindled with the advent of winter weather. Most lumber mills maintain steady work schedules with stockpiled logs. After post holiday adjustment, trade and service jobs stay at normal seasonal levels. Practically no demand for farm workers.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scooby—Construction work continued on enclosed buildings, but down in outdoor activities. Job totals in oil oriented industries show slight increase from last year. Little change in main street jobs except for reduction of work weeks at some cafes and hotels. Farm labor demand not too active.

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 629 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,096 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in cooperation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			NET CHANGE	
	Dec. 1968 (2)	Nov. 1968 (3)	Dec. 1967	Nov. '68 to Dec. '68	Dec. '67 Against Dec. '68
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	197,600	196,700	191,000	900	6,600
Manufacturing	24,500	24,400	21,400	100	3,100
Durable goods	15,800	15,900	12,900	— 100	2,900
Lumber and timber products	8,800	8,900	8,700	— 100	100
Primary metal ind's.	4,600	4,600	1,600	00	3,000
Other (2)	2,400	2,400	2,600	00	— 200
Nondurable goods	8,700	8,500	8,500	200	200
Food and kindred products	4,800	4,700	4,800	100	00
Printing and publishing	1,800	1,700	1,700	100	100
Petroleum refining	1,000	1,000	1,000	00	00
Other (3)	1,100	1,100	1,000	00	100
Mining	5,600	5,500	4,200	100	1,400
Metal mining	2,700	2,700	1,300	00	1,400
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic	900	900	1,000	00	— 100
Petroleum-natural gas production	2,000	1,900	1,900	100	100
Contract Construction	11,500	11,900	11,500	— 400	00
Contractors, building construction	2,800	2,800	3,700	00	— 900
Contractors, other than building	4,400	4,600	4,000	— 200	400
Contractors, special trade	4,300	4,500	3,800	— 200	500
Transportation and utilities	17,500	17,500	17,700	00	— 200
Interstate railroads	6,700	6,700	7,000	00	— 300
Transportation except railroads	4,700	4,700	4,600	00	100
Utilities including communication	6,100	6,100	6,100	00	00
Trade	46,900	45,900	45,800	1,000	1,100
Wholesale trade	9,200	9,300	8,800	— 100	400
Retail trade	37,700	36,600	37,000	1,100	700
General merchandise and apparel	7,700	6,800	7,700	900	00
Food and liquor stores	5,500	5,600	5,600	— 100	— 100
Eating and drinking establishments	8,700	8,900	8,500	— 200	200
Automotive and filling stations	7,700	7,700	7,400	00	300
Retail trade not elsewhere classified	8,100	7,600	7,800	500	300
Finance, insurance and real estate	7,600	7,600	7,400	00	200
Services and miscellaneous	29,400	29,500	28,800	— 100	600
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.	3,400	3,400	3,000	00	400
Personal services	2,200	2,300	2,400	— 100	— 200
Other (4)	23,800	23,800	23,400	00	400
Government	54,600	54,400	54,200	200	400
Federal	11,500	11,600	12,000	— 100	— 500
State and local	43,100	42,800	42,200	300	900
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	24,800	24,700	23,000	100	1,800
Non-Agri. Total	24,800	24,700	23,000	100	1,800
Manufacturing	3,500	3,500	2,500	00	1,000
Contract construction	2,100	2,200	1,800	— 100	300
Transportation and utilities	2,000	2,000	2,100	00	— 100
Trade (retail and wholesale)	6,600	6,500	6,300	100	300
Finance, insurance & real estate	1,500	1,400	1,400	100	100
Service and miscellaneous (5)	4,000	4,000	3,900	00	100
Government	5,100	5,100	5,000	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	28,600	27,900	27,700	700	900
Non-Agri. Total	28,600	27,900	27,700	700	900
Manufacturing	3,100	3,100	3,100	00	00
Contract construction	1,500	1,600	1,800	— 100	— 300
Transportation and utilities	2,900	2,900	3,000	00	— 100
Trade (retail and wholesale)	9,300	9,000	8,700	300	600
Finance, insurance & real estate	1,400	1,400	1,400	00	00
Service and miscellaneous (5)	5,000	5,000	5,000	00	00
Government	5,400	4,900	4,700	500	700

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation,

medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER, 1968 & DECEMBER, 1967

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								UI Claims*	
	Dec. 1968		Dec. 1967		Dec. 1968		Dec. 1967		December, 1968				December, 1967				Wk. 12-27	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1968	1967
Anaconda	91	41	82	34	349	115	252	101	40	14	54	26	10	12	22	7	127	193
Billings	451	204	458	179	1,397	542	1,603	543	318	68	386	158	325	64	389	135	872	895
Bozeman	192	51	182	72	297	94	380	122	115	25	140	32	101	13	114	43	162	228
Butte	181	68	297	109	848	254	1,138	393	27	8	35	8	11	3	14	4	436	808
Cut Bank	106	43	49	22	434	146	313	121	27	4	31	10	13	1	14	6	124	178
Dillon	57	20	60	29	125	53	173	76	25	21	46	28	20	21	41	17	61	132
Glasgow	54	14	93	37	186	54	167	31	30	10	40	13	87	3	90	30	141	101
Glendive	54	14	123	39	110	38	198	60	29	8	37	18	54	11	65	27	65	80
Great Falls	436	113	529	154	1,567	489	1,656	522	216	36	252	62	210	28	238	56	831	1,023
Hamilton	56	25	69	17	175	74	184	55	16	6	22	4	21	8	29	9	125	147
Havre	90	24	113	38	202	88	203	75	48	7	55	14	38	7	45	15	152	180
Helena	196	60	271	101	593	201	614	147	87	16	103	29	92	14	106	42	337	460
Kallispell	165	48	251	95	862	307	782	255	80	7	87	36	129	3	132	40	631	551
Lewistown	48	23	63	24	159	70	211	65	30	44	74	22	30	38	68	15	124	142
Libby	156	57	106	36	644	249	328	106	33	—	33	20	45	—	45	20	359	408
Livingston	56	18	63	18	206	61	236	65	40	3	43	13	38	10	48	20	154	199
Miles City	58	18	99	33	149	46	215	51	41	34	75	21	53	25	78	33	71	97
Missoula	441	147	594	166	1,247	434	1,310	460	158	12	170	63	189	8	197	85	492	557
Polson	44	15	58	23	167	63	225	85	10	1	11	4	20	—	20	4	113	190
Shelby	39	16	50	22	127	47	149	64	42	1	43	12	15	2	17	3	62	105
Sidney	42	10	45	13	82	21	99	26	30	12	42	10	33	23	56	6	13	69
Thompson Falls	33	13	27	9	106	34	113	36	12	—	12	5	30	2	32	12	61	79
Wolf Point	52	16	64	21	148	41	194	64	10	3	13	3	13	5	18	4	70	87
Billings YOC	169	24	159	6	490	40	363	21	95	2	97	18	86	—	86	4	—	—
TOTALS	3,267	1,082	3,905	1,297	10,670	3,561	11,106	3,544	1,559	342	1,901	629	1,663	301	1,964	637	5,616	6,909

*Includes 549 Claims of the Fed. U.C. Program 593 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in cooperation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec. (1) 1968	Nov. (2) 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. (1) 1968	Nov. (2) 1968	Dec. 1967	Dec. (1) 1968	Nov. (2) 1968	Dec. 1967
All Manufacturing	\$138.44	\$136.29	\$131.46	41.7	41.3	40.7	\$3.32	\$3.30	\$3.23
Durable Goods	139.07	136.69	135.01	42.4	41.8	41.8	3.28	3.27	3.23
Primary Metals	132.60	132.60	—	40.8	40.8	—	3.25	3.25	—
Nondurable Goods	139.04	138.38	127.33	40.3	40.7	39.3	3.45	3.40	3.24
Food and Kindred Products	126.68	128.10	110.43	41.4	42.0	39.3	3.06	3.05	2.81
All Mining	142.69	142.35	121.73	41.6	41.5	37.0	3.43	3.43	3.29
Metal Mining	136.00	135.66	—	40.0	39.9	—	3.40	3.40	—
Communications and Utilities	133.39	133.39	117.89	40.3	40.3	38.4	3.31	3.31	3.07

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

* Data not available due to copper strike.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANAUCC BUILDING
P. O. Box 1728
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

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